

E1-919 CD  
State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Scott Hassett, Secretary  
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Mr. Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) - Docket AB-303 (Sub-No. 27)  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001




Dear Mr. Williams:

I am writing to provide an information update and request regarding the proposed Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) Abandonment in Ozaukee, Sheboygan, and Manitowoc Counties, Wisconsin, Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-303 (Sub.No. 27).

During May and June 2004, heavy rainfall occurred in southeastern Wisconsin. City of Kiel personnel contacted Department staff during the week of June 14, 2004, and reported that cattail mats had broken loose from the Kiel marsh during high water. The cattail mats had been transported downstream on the Sheboygan River where they and other debris were snagged by relict wooden railroad bridge piers near the WCL bridge south of Mile Post 151.8. The wooden bridge piers had not been removed from the river at some time in the past when the railroad bridge had been reconstructed. The cattail mats and debris obstructed water flow and raised water elevations upstream. Department staff authorized the City of Kiel personnel to remove the wooden piers and restore normal flow.

The Department requests that the Surface Transportation Board require WCL to inspect all the bridge crossings in the proposed abandonment corridor, and to remove any historic wooden piers down to stream bed elevation as part of any abandonment agreements.

Sincerely,

  
Gloria McCutcheon, P.E.  
Regional Director

Cc:

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr., Counsel, Legal Department, Canadian National/Illinois Central  
455 North Cityfront Plaza Drive, Chicago, IL 60611-5317

Mr. Allyn J. Lepeska, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, 4802 Sheboygan Ave 115B Madison, WI 53702

Ron Kazmierczak – Northeast Region

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Philip C. Evenson AICP, Executive Director, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, P.O. Box 1607, Waukesha, WI 53187-1607

Ms. Shannon Haydin, Director of Planning, Sheboygan Co., Administration Bldg., 3rd Floor - Rm. 335, 508 New York Ave, Sheboygan, WI 53081

Mike Demske, Director of Manitowoc County Planning and Park Commission, Manitowoc County Office Complex, 4319 Expo Drive, P.O. Box 610, Manitowoc, WI 54221-0610

Andy Holschbach, Ozaukee County Planning, Resources & Land Management Department, Administration Center, P.O. Box 994, 121 W. Main St., Port Washington, WI 53074-0994

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